

Application No. 09/991,280

Amendment dated October 22, 2004

Reply to Office Action mailed March 3, 2004 (Paper No. 15)

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (previously presented): A coupling structure for a flow control valve, the coupling structure comprising:

a fitting portion having a male thread that is formed on a peripheral surface of the flow control valve;

a coupled member having a coupling hole to receive the flow control valve; and

a cylindrical elastic sealing member engaged with the coupling hole to seal the space between the flow control valve and the coupling hole, wherein the elastic sealing member has an inner surface defining a mounting hole in which the fitting portion is fitted, a female thread formed on the inner surface, the female thread being mated with the male thread of the fitting portion, and a pressed portion formed on the inner surface defining the mounting hole, and

wherein the pressed portion is pressed by the fitting portion to radially expand the elastic sealing member when the fitting portion is fitted in the mounting hole, and wherein the coupled member includes a front surface and a rear surface, the elastic sealing member being engaged with the coupled member from the front surface, and the coupled member includes a stopper socket, which is formed adjacent to the coupling hole in the front surface without extending through the coupled member, and wherein the elastic sealing member includes a stopper, which projects from the elastic sealing member, the stopper being received in the stopper socket.

2-5 (cancelled)

6. (previously presented): The coupling structure according to claim 1, wherein the flow control valve has a main body formed from synthetic resin, and the main body has a rotating portion for rotating the male thread and mating the male thread with the female thread.

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7. (original): The coupling structure according to claim 6, wherein the flow control valve is a blowby gas returning apparatus flow control valve incorporated in an internal combustion engine.

8. (original): The coupling structure according to claim 7, wherein the main body has a hose connector for connecting a hose, and the rotating portion is arranged in the hose connector.

9. (original): The coupling structure according to claim 1, wherein the flow control valve has a main body formed from synthetic resin, and the main body has a rotating portion for rotating the male thread and mating the male thread with the female thread.

10. (original): The coupling structure according to claim 1, wherein the flow control valve is a blowby gas returning apparatus flow control valve incorporated in an internal combustion engine.

11-14 (cancelled)

15. (currently amended): A cylindrical elastic sealing member formed from a rubber material, wherein the elastic sealing member receives a fitting body and seals between the fitting body and a coupled member, the elastic sealing member comprising:

a mounting hole for receiving the fitting body;

a pressed portion formed on an inner surface defining the mounting hole and pressed by the fitting body, the pressed portion including an outer surface, wherein the outer surface includes an annular groove for receiving a portion of the coupled member; and

a stopper formed in the annular groove for preventing the elastic sealing member from rotating when the mounting hole receives the fitting body, wherein the pressed portion radially expands the elastic sealing member when pressed by the fitting body.

16. (Previously presented): The cylindrical elastic sealing member according to claim 15, wherein the outer surface of the pressed portion includes a tapered surface.